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THE  
MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST



RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED AT THE FARMERS' CONVENTION, HELD, IN THE CITY  
OF WINNIPEG 19TH AND 20TH DEC., 1883.

INSTRUCTIONS

AS TO THE

FORMATION OF BRANCH UNIONS,

ETC.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL :

BRANDON, 1ST JANUARY, 1884.

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# OFFICERS

OF THE

## MANITOBA AND NORTH WEST FARMERS' UNION.

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### COMMISSIONERS TO OTTAWA :

E. A. BAILEY, Nelson ; JOSEPH MARTIN, M. P. P., Portage la Prairie ; GEORGE PURVIS, Brandon.

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### COUNCIL :

ALEXANDER FLEMING, Brandon, President ; A. Mutchmor, Emerson, 1st Vice-President ; C. J. GREEN, Portage la Prairie, 2nd Vice-President ; JOHN McTAVISH, Clearwater, 3rd Vice-President.

### TREASURER :

WILLIAM WINTER, BRANDON.

### SECRETARY :

GEORGE PURVIS, BRANDON.

### COUNCILLORS :

W. POULTNEY SMITH, Plum Creek.	J. BROADFOOT, Gladstone
CLIFFORD SIFTON, Brandon.	J. S. ORRMAN, Birtle.
J. BASKERVILLE, Dominion City.	

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### TEMPORARY OFFICE, BRANDON.

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N. B.—Address all communications to the Secretary, Brandon, Manitoba.



THIS pamphlet has been published that the farmers of Manitoba and the North West may better understand the object aimed at by the "Manitoba and North West Farmers Union," and to furnish a correct account of the proceedings of the late Convention at Winnipeg.

Induced by the representations of the Dominion Government, thousands of us have during the last four or five years braved the many difficulties and expenses of reaching this country. We have hopefully faced the hardships of isolation and of a rigorous climate, and have been and are still willing to contend manfully with the natural disadvantages of our new location.

Now, however, that we have for the first time, a surplus of grain, we have discovered that the prices we obtain are not sufficient to cover the cost of production, and that we are face to face with the fact that notwithstanding all our labor and outlay we can barely subsist.

We are therefore compelled to consider seriously the causes of such a disastrous condition of affairs, and to determine on the means of saving ourselves, if possible, from absolute ruin.

No doubt a combination of unfavorable circumstances, such as early and severe frosts, together with imperfect arrangements for saving and marketing grain, have this season aggravated the farmer's condition and contributed to his discontent. Yet the fact remains that those of us whose crops were untouched by frost and who were at the same time most conveniently situated as to markets, realized little or no profit on our produce. Our distance from the great markets of the world, the length and severity of our winters,

and the scarcity of fuel, must to a great extent neutralize the exceptional advantages we enjoy of an easily cultivated and exceedingly productive soil. Such drawbacks are for the present unavoidable and would be borne by us with patience.

In addition to these, however, we find ourselves weighed down by the excessive charges of a railway monopoly, forced on us in despite of an Act of the Imperial Parliament in utter disregard of the urgent needs of a young and growing community. We find the lands of Manitoba, guaranteed to her by every principle of provincial equality, withheld from us by a Government, whose vacillating land policy has diverted the stream of immigration from our boundaries.

We find, too, an oppressive tariff which, however beneficial it may be to the manufacturing Eastern Provinces, can not fail to be inimical to the interests of a purely agricultural country such as this.

It is plain that there are grievances which ought not to be borne without remonstrances—resistance if necessary. But we believe that a fair representation of our condition, backed by a stern determination to have it remedied, will secure for us such universal sympathy and respect as will break down every obstacle to our ultimate success.

Let us then continue to work, as we have begun, keeping in view those rights we have inherited as subjects of a constitutional monarchy, which can alone secure to this country that liberty upon which depends its prosperity. Nay, more, its peace, disregarding, as we are bound to do, at such a crisis, party divisions and tactics, and directing our intelligence and energy so as to secure the common good.

At a meeting of Farmers held in the city of Brandon on the 26th of November, it was resolved to hold a Farmers Convention in the city of Winnipeg on the 19th of December.

last Circulars to that effect were accordingly sent to every post office in Manitoba and the North West.

Meetings of citizens were held in the towns of Emerson, Portage, Nelson, Manitou, and other places, at which resolutions were passed in sympathy with the movement, and delegates appointed to attend the Convention.

The city of Winnipeg was also to some extent represented. The members of the Board of Trade, at a special meeting held for that purpose, passed a resolution to the effect that they recognized the farmers' grievances and sympathized with the objects of the Convention. The Manitoba Rights League, an association which has existed for some months in that city, sent six delegates, and rendered every assistance in their power to make the Convention a success. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather and the fact that the running of trains was very irregular, more than 100 representatives from various sections of the Province were present, and the following constitution was adopted:



## CONSTITUTION.

1. The name of this society shall be "The Manitoba and North West Farmers Union."

2. The central committee or council of the union shall be composed of a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and five councillors, a majority of whom shall form a quorum.

3. The first council shall be elected by the delegates now present in convention, and subsequent councils shall be elected annually at a meeting of delegates, the first of such annual meetings to be held in Winnipeg, and subsequent meetings to be held at such places as the general meeting of delegates may, from time to time, appoint.

4. Local unions shall be formed throughout the Province, and shall, on or before the first day of January in each year, elect a delegate to the annual meeting of the union.

N. B. No meeting of delegates will be held for the election of a Council for 1884, the present Council holding office until their successors are appointed for 1885, at a meeting of delegates to be held in the city of Winnipeg, in January, 1885, of which due notice will be given.

5. Each branch of the union shall have the right to send one delegate, provided that it has twenty-five members at least on its books; provided also that two or more unions may unite to make up the requisite number for the purpose of entitling them jointly to a delegate.

6. The membership fee shall be (in addition to what is required for local purposes) \$1, to be transmitted to the treasurer.

7. The expenses of delegates to the annual meeting shall be defrayed out of the general fund.

8. All ratepayers over eighteen years of age shall be eligible for membership in local unions, provided that any person connected with a Farmers Union already formed shall be entitled to be in membership of the Local Union.

9. Each local union shall have its own organization and shall take whatever steps it may think fit to further the principles of the Union.

10. The Council shall have power to conduct the business of the Union, in accordance with by-laws passed by the general meeting.



The reports of delegates from the different sections of the country displayed a wonderful unanimity as to the grievances from which they were suffering and their causes. It was felt that ~~this~~ feeling should find expression in the form of a Declaration of Rights, and accordingly after a lengthy discussion on the various clauses, it was finally settled in the following form :—

#### **DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.**

Whereas, in view of the present depression in agricultural and commercial industries in the Province of Manitoba, the farmers of the Province have assembled for the purpose of expressing their views upon the causes of the said depression and the means of removing the same.

And, whereas, the present and future prosperity of this Province depends both commercially and otherwise upon the successful prosecution of agriculture.

And, whereas, numerous and embarrassing restrictions are placed upon the efforts made by the settlers to extend their operations and improve their condition.

And, whereas, such restrictions are unjust and unnecessary, and have been continued in defiance of the just rights of Manitoba.

And, whereas, some of the said restrictions consist of the oppressive duty upon agricultural implements, the monopoly of the carrying trade now enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; and the improper and vexatious methods employed in the administration of the public lands of Manitoba.

And, whereas, the inhabitants of Manitoba are British subjects, and have made their homes here upon the representation that they would be allowed all the privileges which, as such subjects, they would elsewhere in Canada be entitled to, and it appears that by the terms of the admission of Manitoba into Confederation they should be allowed such rights and privileges.

And, whereas, they are denied such rights, and they find that the representative system of the Province is such that they are practically denied the privilege of securing the redress of their grievances through their representatives in the Provincial or Dominion Parliaments.

And, whereas, a large proportion of the business of the Dominion Government is wholly connected with Manitoba and the Northwest, especially the important Departments of the Minister of Railways, Public Works, Immigration and Agriculture, which should be controlled by our provincial legislature.

And, whereas, it is the right of every British subject to call the attention of the constituted authorities to the existence of abuses and wrongs:

Therefore be it resolved that this Convention demands:

1. The right of the Local Government to charter railways anywhere in Manitoba free from interference, and

2. The absolute control of her public lands (including school lands) by the Legislature of the Province, and compensation for lands sold and used for Federal purposes.

3. That the duty on agricultural implements and building materials be removed, and the customs tariff on articles entering into daily consumption be greatly modified in the interests of the people of this Province and Northwest.

4. The right of representation in the Dominion Cabinet.

And that this convention is unanimously of opinion that the Hudson's Bay Railway should be constructed with the least possible delay.

After the passing of the "Declaration" a debate took place as to the best course to be pursued in order to obtain a recognition of the above mentioned Rights, and the following resolutions were finally unanimously adopted.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

1. Resolved, that three commissioners be elected by ballot, to proceed to Ottawa at the next session of the Dominion Parliament, fully authorized to demand for this province our rights as contained in the foregoing declaration.

2. That it is of the utmost importance that our representatives in Ottawa should endeavor to combine their efforts, regardless of party lines, for the purpose of securing redress of the grievances set forth in the declaration of rights adopted by the convention.

3. That the convention empowers the council to correspond with the Ottawa Government and draw their attention to the excessive rates charged by the C. P. R., and ask the Government to deal with the matter.

4. That this convention believes that immediate steps should be taken to construct the Hudson's Bay Railway, and hereby appoints a deputation to wait on the Local Government to-day to urge the necessity of submitting a scheme at the next meeting of the Legislature pledging the credit of the province to secure the completion of such construction at the earliest possible date, and that such committee be also instructed to urge upon the said Government the necessity of encouraging the construction of railways to connect with the American system at the southern boundary.

And that said committee are hereby instructed to demand the recognition of the rights of Manitoba in regard to the following points, namely :

The right of the Local Government to charter railways in Manitoba, free from any interference.

And that said deputation be also instructed to impress upon the Local Government the importance of amendments being made to the Municipal Act, authorizing the municipalities to construct elevators, grain warehouses and mills, and to issue debentures to defray the expenses of the same.

That the Commissioners report to the Council, as soon as they return from Ottawa, so that the union may, if necessary, be called together to receive the said report.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions the Convention then proceeded to appoint delegates to the Federal and Local Parliaments and elect their officers for the present year. The delegates to the Local Parliament immediately waited upon that body, and the following written answer was received :



*Minutes of Executive Council in Reply to the Committee—The  
Art of Political Shystering Reduced to a Nicety.*

" Copy of a minute of the Executive Council, dated 22nd inst., in reply to the resolutions submitted by the delegates of the Manitoba and Northwest Farmers' Union Convention.

" In reference to the first resolution the undersigned recommends that a communication be sent to those gentlemen informing them that the Government will always be happy to render any assistance within their power towards the construction of railways within the Province of Manitoba.

" That in reference to the Hudson Bay railway His Honor's advisers find, after an examination into the provisions of the Constitution, that the Province legally could not undertake the construction of the road referred to, nor pledge its credit to the same, except in so far as the said road lay within the present limits of the said Province.

" That the advisers of His Honor are further of opinion that the chartering of local railways to connect with the American system south of the boundary would be an exercise of power not conferred upon the Province by the Constitution; that in as far as the right of the Province to charter railways within its limits, they are of opinion that the same can be freely exercised, subject to such conditions and limitations as are expressed and provided in the Act to provide for the extension of the boundaries of the Province.

" In reference to the the third subject of the memorandum, which affirms that it is the duty of the Provincial Government to make such amendments to the Municipal Act as shall empower municipal councils to build or assist in building elevators and warehouses, the advisers of His Honor beg to inform the delegates that this subject has already been before Council for consideration and that it is the intention to recommend to His Honor that the subjects be submitted to the Legislature at its next session, for its action thereon.

(Signed)

JOHN NORQUAY, Chairman.

" I certify the above to be a correct copy of a minute of Council passed on the 22nd day of December, 1883.

" (Signed)

" J. McBERT,

" Clerk of the Executive Council."

## BRANCH UNIONS.

In order that the present movement may be thoroughly successful it is of the greatest importance that branch unions should be organized everywhere. The Secretary of each branch union should mail a list of the officers, together with the name adopted by the branch union, to the Secretary of the Central Union, who will cheerfully give further information on all matters relating to the union.

GEORGE PURVIS,  
Secretary,  
Manitoba and North West Farmers Union,  
Brandon,  
Manitoba.

ALEX. FLEMING,  
President.  
Brandon, Jan. 1st, 1884.



"Therefore be it resolved that this Convention demands:"

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JANUARY 8TH, 1884.

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BRANDON, MAN.

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